

## Network on Food Consumption Data Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting

**Held on 24-25 November 2015, Parma**

**(Agreed on 11 January 2016)**

### **Participants**

- **Network Representatives of Member States (including EFTA Countries):**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Name</b>
Austria	Jürgen König <sup>1</sup>
Belgium	Charlotte Stievenart
Bulgaria	Stefka Petrova
Cyprus	Stelios Yiannopoulos
Croatia	Darja Sokolic
Czech Republic	Marcela Dofkova
Denmark	Ellen Trolle
Estonia	Keiu Nelis
Finland	Liisa Valsta
France	Carine Dubuisson
Germany	Carolin Krems
Greece	Georgios Marakis
Hungary	Zsuzsanna Horváth
Ireland	Breige McNulty
Italy	Aida Turrini
Latvia	Inese Siksna
Lithuania	Indre Stoskuviene
Netherlands	Marga Ocke
Poland	Iwona Traczyk
Portugal	Maria Antonia Calhau
Romania	Felix Nicolescu
Slovenia	Matej Gregoric
Spain	Josefa Rubio
Sweden	Cecilia Nansen
United Kingdom	Mark Bush
Iceland	Holmfridur Thorgeirsdottir
Norway	Inge Therese Lillegaard

<sup>1</sup> Attended the second day of the meeting

- **Hearing Experts**

Catherine Leclercq (FAO); Victoria Burley (University of Leeds, UK); Giulia Facchin (Mintel); Jacob Van Klaveren (RIVM); Jean-Luc Volatier (ANSES).

- **Observers**

Maro Christodoulidou (Cyprus); Merike Lauri (Estonia); Carla Lopes, Duarte Torres (Portugal); Ulla-Kaisa Koivisto Hurti (Sweden).

- **EFSA**

Evidence Management (DATA) Unit: Mary Gilsenan (Head of Unit)\*, Davide Arcella (Chair), Sofia Ioannidou, Evangelia Mavromichali (Minutes), Altieri Andrea, Francesca Romana Mancini, Stefano Cappe\*, Jose Angel Gomez Ruiz\*, Francesco Vernazza\*

FIP Unit: Alexandra Tard\*

Legal and Regulatory Affairs Unit (LRA): Citlali Pintado\*

AFSCO Unit: Stylianos Koulouris\*

## **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Ingrid Busuttil (Malta), Camille Strottner (Luxembourg), Katarina Kromerova (Slovakia).

## **2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

## **3. Agreement of the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Network on Food Consumption Data held on 4-6 November 2014, Parma**

The minutes were agreed by written procedure on 05 December 2014 and published on the EFSA website 06 December 2015.

## **4. Topics for discussion**

### **4.1. EU Menu procurement projects completed**

#### **4.1.1. EU Menu Spanish national dietary survey on children and adolescents**

Josefa Rubio Manas presented the Spanish dietary survey "ENALIA" on children and adolescents. She described the sampling protocol of the survey, the dietary tool used for the collection of the data, the participation rate and the quality assurance plan. She also discussed the challenges faced during the project.

---

\* attended part of the meeting

Food consumption data from this project were submitted to EFSA in August 2015 and the project was finalised in November 2015.

#### **4.1.2. EU Menu Estonian dietary survey on children and breastfeeding mothers**

Keiu Nelis presented the Estonian dietary survey on children and breastfeeding women. She also described the sampling protocol of the survey, the dietary tool used, the participation rate and the quality assurance plan. She highlighted the challenges faced during the project and how these were dealt with. The first version of the food consumption and related data collected through this project were submitted to EFSA in October 2015. The final version of the data will be submitted by the end of 2015.

### **4.2. EU Menu procurement projects initiated in 2014**

#### **4.2.1. EU Menu Hungarian dietary survey on children and adults**

Zsuzsanna Horvath gave a presentation on the dietary survey in Hungary on the total population (children and adults). She gave an overview of the planning phase of the survey, focusing on the sampling design and the administration of the interview, as well as the quality assurance plan. She concluded describing the survey calendar and the future plans.

#### **4.2.2. EU Menu Slovenian dietary survey on children and adults**

Matej Gregoric presented the Slovenian national dietary survey on the total population. He described the sampling strategy, the methodology they plan to use, the administration of the interview, and the main expected challenges. He reported the recruitment and anticipated participation rate, the quality assurance plan and structure of the project.

#### **4.2.3. EU Menu Italian dietary survey on children and adults**

Aida Turrini gave a presentation on the Italian dietary survey on children and adults. She gave an overview of the sampling procedure, the dietary tool to be used, the recruitment procedure and the quality assurance plan. She also presented the project calendar.

#### **4.2.4. Discussion**

The network members welcomed the experience shared from the concluded and on-going projects. The discussion highlighted the importance of spending enough time and resources in the planning phase of a national dietary survey.

### **4.3. Data sharing**

#### **4.3.1. FAO/WHO GIFT and CIFOCOss Initiatives**

Catherine Leclercq gave an update on the FAO/WHO projects aimed at harmonising and disseminating individual food consumption data. The CIFOCOss (Chronic Individual Food Consumption Summary Statistics) is a chronic individual food consumption database in the form of summary statistics covering 26 countries (including 17 EU countries). The FAO/WHO Global

Individual Food Consumption Data Tool (FAO/WHO GIFT) is intended to be used as a dissemination platform for individual food consumption data. She described its main uses, its potential end-users and possible outputs. She gave an overview of the GIFT dissemination platform and the timeline for its development.

#### **4.3.2. Data warehouse, from DCF to reports on the web**

Stefano Cappe gave a presentation on the EFSA Scientific Data Warehouse. He described its objectives together with the data components and data integration. The areas currently covered by the Data Warehouse are: food consumption, chemical contaminants, zoonoses and chemical hazards. He also gave examples on how the Data Warehouse can be used to present the data and referred to the Data Warehouse access rules<sup>2</sup>, which describe different levels of data access to different stakeholders. He concluded giving the current status of the project and the future steps.

#### **4.3.3. Public access to EFSA documents and data**

Citlali Pintado referred to the Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 on public access to documents, applicable to documents in EFSA's possession that may apply to databases under the conditions laid down in Union Courts case law. She gave an overview of the number and type of requests EFSA receives, the standard timeline for handling these requests, the critical factors, and the key improving factors to face the workload.

### **4.4. Future methods in dietary surveys**

#### **4.4.1. Making the best use of new technologies in the National Diet and Nutrition Survey: a review**

Victoria Burley gave a presentation on a systematic review carried out on new technologies in the UK National Diet and Nutrition Survey, currently available and in development, that have the potential to improve, complement or replace methods of dietary assessment in national dietary surveys. She described the exemplar tools: web diaries, web recalls, dietary records as applications, camera methods to complement the paper-based method or replace them completely. She gave a summary of the review findings, the research conclusions and recommendations.

### **4.5. Mintel Food Labels Database**

Giulia Facchin presented Mintel's Global New Products Database (GNPD) which stores information from product labels (e.g. list of ingredients, packaging information) from new product launches globally. EFSA currently uses this database for its work on dietary exposure assessments. Giulia Facchin described how the database was developed and is maintained as well as its analytical functionalities. This was followed by an online demonstration on how to use the database.

---

<sup>2</sup> Report available at: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/768e>

**25 November 2015**

**5. Welcome and apologies for absence**

No further apologies were received during the second day of the meeting.

**6. Topics for discussion**

**6.1. Dietary exposure and intake assessments, case studies**

**6.1.1. Dietary exposure to food additives**

Alexandra Tard presented how dietary exposure to food additives is performed at EFSA. She described the three exposure assessment scenarios generally used in the case of food additives. For each of them she outlined the main assumptions and uncertainties.

**6.1.2. Dietary assessment to minerals/ vitamins**

Sofia Ioannidou gave a presentation on how the nutrient intake calculation of minerals and vitamins is performed at EFSA. The objectives of this work were to support the Nutrition Unit in setting up dietary Reference Values (DRV) and to assess nutrient intake in Europe. Sofia Ioannidou described the methodology, the main assumptions made and uncertainties generated. She also presented the results of the intake estimates for vitamin B6 and iron as examples of the methodology used.

**6.1.3. Dietary exposure to contaminants**

Jose Angel Gomez Ruiz presented the dietary exposure to inorganic arsenic in the European population. A scientific report was published in 2014 based on up to date occurrence and food consumption data available in EFSA. He presented the main contributors to dietary exposure to inorganic arsenic and underlined that more detailed consumption data are needed to reduce uncertainty associated to dietary exposure estimates.

**6.2. Brainstorming on dietary surveys on special population groups (and 6.3)**

The age groups currently covered under the EU Menu project are infants, toddlers, other children, adolescents, adults and elderly. During a round-table discussion, EFSA has requested each Member State (MS) representative to report if a dietary survey on any special population group has taken place in their country, how the selection of subjects was performed in this case, which dietary method was used and if any special practises were followed. Pregnant women were the special population group for which a dietary survey has been carried out or is currently on-going in most of the MSs (15). Food consumption data have also been collected, mainly within cohort studies, for breastfeeding mothers (8 MSs). Other special populations groups reported were: children living in institutions, fishermen, high consumers of highly contaminated fish, hospitalized patients, immigrants, institutionalized elderly people, low income households, menopausal women, minority groups including different ethnic groups, obese adults, obese school children with low income, people allergic to nuts and vegetarians. All special population groups

mentioned within the round table were listed and network participants were asked to select and vote which special population group should be prioritised in the case ad hoc dietary surveys would be supported by EFSA in the future. The population groups that should be prioritised according to the majority of the network participants was the very elderly followed by low income populations and pregnant women. Results of the round table are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Results of the voting on which special population group should be prioritised in case ad hoc dietary surveys would be supported by EFSA in the future

Special population groups	Number of votes
Very elderly >75yr old	16
Low income populations	14
Pregnant women	10
Ethnic groups	9
Obese children	7
Vegetarians	7
Food supplement users	6
People with allergies	6
Breastfeeding women	5
Institutionalised elderly	5
High fish consumers	3
Diabetics	3
People consuming food from charities	2
Celiacs	2
Menopausal women	1
Obese adults?	1
Hospitalised patients	1
Special diet due to religion	0

#### **6.4. Updated report on FoodEx2**

Francesco Vernazza gave an overview and update of the FoodEx2 classification system. He highlighted the increasing need for a more detailed description of foods consumed and described the recommended way of codifying food items using the facet descriptors. He presented the interpreting and checking tool of the FoodEx2 and explained how this is used.

#### **6.5. International projects**

##### **6.5.1. EuroMix project**

Jacob Van Klaveren gave a presentation on the European Commission funded EuroMix project, a tiered test strategy for risk assessment of mixtures of multiple chemicals. He also gave an overview of the European Commission funded ACROPOLIS project. He referred to the research activities, the use of predictive modelling for toxic chemicals and the use of MCRA (Monte Carlo Risk Assessment) to identify relevant cumulative chemicals. He concluded with recommendations for the assessment of aggregated exposure.

### **6.5.2. Total Diet Study (TDS) Exposure**

Jean-Luc Volatier gave a presentation on the Total Diet Study (TDS) Exposure project funded by the European Commission. The objectives of the project were to identify information on exposure to chemicals that could complement the estimates based on food consumption and occurrence data, to develop and harmonise TDS methods in Europe. He described the deliverables of the project, outlined the links with the EU Menu initiative and the follow up of the project.

## **7. Communication with Network Members**

### **7.1. DATA newsletter**

Simona Fusar Poli presented the EFSA DATA unit newsletter distributed to the network participants in a quarterly basis. The newsletter initiative started in 2015 to inform food consumption and contaminant occurrence data providers about the use of their data in EFSA outputs. She described the newsletter layout and welcomed suggestions for improvement. The network appreciated this initiative and agreed to receive the newsletter with updates two or three times per year.

### **7.2. EFSA PhD programme**

Stylianos Koulouris gave a presentation on the PhD and Guest Scientist schemes at EFSA as well as the EFSA Scientific Cooperation roadmap. He identified the target audiences for both schemes as well as the proposed PhD governance. MSs were invited to apply for these schemes.

## **8. Any other business**

### **8.1. Contact details of Network representatives**

The chair asked the participants if they have any objection to EFSA publishing on the EFSA website the names and e-mail addresses of Member State representatives participating in the scientific network on food consumption data. All participants agreed.

### **8.2. Date for next meeting**

The next network meeting will take place in March 2017.

## **9. Conclusion**

The chair informed the network members that they will be sent a link where they will be invited to fill in an evaluation questionnaire of the meeting and to make proposals for the next meeting.

## **10. Closure of the meeting**

The chair thanked all participants for their valuable contribution and closed the meeting.